

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 871

By Fincher

A RESOLUTION to honor and recognize Mr. Ben Fann as the oldest prosecutor in Tennessee.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly are pleased to specially recognize those venerable citizens of our state and nation whose extraordinary longevity provide living links to eras of our history's long past; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Ben Fann is one such venerable public servant and consummate professional who has worked assiduously to improve the quality of life for his fellow citizens in numerous capacities; and

WHEREAS, Ben Fann has served with acumen and alacrity as an assistant district attorney in the Cookeville and Putnam County community for a number of years and holds the prestigious and commendable honor of being the oldest state prosecutor in Tennessee; he has earned the respect of his peers, his superiors, and the public alike for the superb quality of his work and his dedication to his job; and

WHEREAS, for Mr. Fann's colleagues, he is not thought of in terms of years of age, but in terms of wisdom, insight, ability, and courage; and

WHEREAS, growing up in the 1930s, when getting an education was not considered as important as getting work, Ben Fann quit school to play in a musical band; he soon had second thoughts, however, and returned to high school, though he continued to play music for local dance bands until he turned eighteen; and

WHEREAS, after graduating from high school, Mr. Fann obtained a job at the town's cotton mill as a stitcher operator, where a fateful encounter with a high school friend led him to leave his job at the mill in the hope of playing college football; and

WHEREAS, while Ben Fann did not make the football team, he stayed in college and worked in the mill during the summers to pay for school; and

WHEREAS, he continued his education at Western Carolina University, until it was interrupted in 1942 when Mr. Fann was drafted into the United States Army; for the next three years, he valiantly served his country by teaching instrument flying to his fellow soldiers and spending time in what he describes as “the China, Burma, India combat area.”; and

WHEREAS, after the army, he resumed his education and eventually earned a master’s degree in Education at the University of Illinois; and

WHEREAS, Ben Fann gave unreservedly of himself to teaching and coaching at the high school level and rendering sterling service as a school principal; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Fann then began his second career as a lawyer, practicing law in Colorado as a defense attorney before moving to Cookeville in 1975; and

WHEREAS, he continued his practice as a defense attorney before accepting his current position on the other side of the courtroom as an assistant district attorney, a job that he claims to like more than any of his other jobs; and

WHEREAS, Ben Fann’s commitment to excellence, compassion for his fellow man, and strong sense of justice are characteristics of a true Tennessean; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Fann is deeply devoted to his family, and he always endeavors to remain true to family values of the highest order; and

WHEREAS, Ben Fann is most appreciative of the love and support he receives from his wife, Kathryn, their two boys, two girls, and granddaughter; and

WHEREAS, the State of Tennessee is indeed fortunate to count as a state prosecutor a citizen who has reached such advanced years and whose life encompasses a large portion of Tennessee’s history, and Mr. Ben Fann should be specially recognized; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and recognize Mr. Ben Fann for the distinction of being the oldest, practicing state prosecutor in Tennessee, salute his tireless service to the citizens of Cookeville and Putnam County, and wish him continued success in all of his future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.

